

REMARKS

The Specification is objected to. Claims 1-68 are pending in the application, Claims 19-32 and 53-68 having been withdrawn. Claims 1-6 and 10-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims Claims 7-9 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claims 33-52 are allowable. Claim 1 is amended herein and Claims 69-83 are added by this Amendment. Claims 19-32 and 52-68 are cancelled herein.

In the Specification

The Specification is objected to because the status of the reference to a copending U.S. application at page 10, lines 20-22 is unknown. The Specification is amended herein to reflect the current status of the referenced application.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Obviousness Rejection

Claims 1-6 and 10-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in light of Charpentier et al. (*Macromolecules*, 1999 Sep. 7, 32(18): 5973-5975). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Action indicates that dependent Claim 8 is “objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.” *See, Action* at p. 7. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate all of the recitations of Claim 8, thereby rewriting Claim 8 into independent format. Claim 1 is therefore allowable.

Claims 2-18 depend from Claim 1 and are allowable over the obviousness rejection because dependent claims of a nonobvious independent claim are also nonobvious.

New Claims

Claims 69-83 are added by amendment herein.

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Claim 9, which was objected to but not rejected, is rewritten as Claim 69 including all of the limitations of Claim 1 from which it depended. Claim 69 is therefore allowable. Claims 70-82 depend from Claim 69 and are also allowable.

Original Claim 7 was objected to but is now allowable as a dependent claim of amended Claim 1. The Action indicated that Claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the recitations of the claims from which it depended. Claim 83 comprises a combination of the recitations of original Claim 1 and Claim 7. Claim 83 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

The concerns of the Examiner addressed in full, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance forthwith. Applicants do not believe that any fees are due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0220. The Examiner is encouraged to direct any questions regarding the foregoing to the undersigned, who may be reached at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



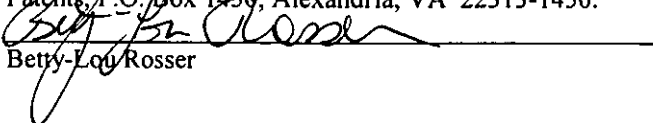
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Betty-Lou Rosser